

Message Text

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71

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

L-03 SS-20 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 H-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 DRC-01 /140 W

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA, SOCI

SUBJ: 28TH UNGA--THIRD COMMITTEE, ITEM 55, DRAFT DECLARATION ON ELIMINATION OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

1. SUMMARY. THIRD COMITE DEBATED SUBJECT DECLARATION ARTICLE-BY-ARTICLE BUT OWING IN PART TO COMPLEXITY OF DOCUMENTATION WAS UNABLE TO PREPARE AGREED DRAFT FOR SUBMISSION TO THIS GA. COMITE ADOPTED RES REQUESTING HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO DRAW UP SINGLE DRAFT, IF POSSIBLE, ON PRIORITY BASIS FOR SUBMISSION TO NEXT GA. END SUMMARY.

2. ITEM INTRODUCED OCT 26; SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION BEGAN OCT 29 AND CONCLUDED NOV 1. TWO DRAFT DECLARATIONS WERE SUBMITTED FOR COMITE'S CONSIDERATION: INCOMPLETE DRAFT OF WORKING GROUP OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND DRAFT PREPARED BY SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES. THIS SITUATION WAS FURTHER COMPLICATED BY NETHERLANDS DELEGATION (VAN WALSUM) WHICH INTRODUCED A THIRD DRAFT (L.2025) WITHOUT ADEQUATE CONSULTATION WITH OR SUPPORT FROM OTHER DELS. NETHERLANDS THEN BROUGHT OUT YET ANOTHER DOCUMENT (L. 2027) SHOWING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ITS DRAFT AND THAT OF WORKING GROUP.

3. SOVIET BLOC'S FIRST TACTIC WAS TO TRY TO COMPEL COMITE TO
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CONSIDER DRAFT CONVENTION FIRST INSTEAD OF DECLARATION. WHEN

THIS MOVE WAS DEFEATED, CHAIRMAN OBTAINED CONSENSUS ON CONSIDERING DRAFT DECLARATION FIRST AND SPECIFICALLY WORKING GROUP DRAFT. NONTHELESS, INCOMPLETE NATURE OF THAT DRAFT, PLUS CONFUSING STATE OF DOCUMENTATION WOULD HAVE MADE COMPLETION OF AGREED DRAFT DECLARATION FOR SUBMISSION TO CURRENT GA EXTREMELY DIFFICULT, EVEN IF NETHERLANDS FLOOR LEADERSHIP HAD BEEN MORE EFFECTIVE.

4. FIRST THREE OF SIX SESSIONS DEVOTED TO GENERAL STATEMENTS WERE DOMINATED BY SOVIET DELS WHICH CRITICIZED DECLARATION AS BEING BIASED IN FAVOR OF RELIGIOUS BELIEVERS AS AGAINST NON-BELIEVERS AND ATHEISTS, RECALLED PERSECUTION OF ATHEISTS AT HANDS OF CHURCH AND CONCLUDED WITH BLISTERING ATTACK ON CATHOLICISM BY BYELORUSSIAN DEL. CHAIRMAN THEN MOVED COMITE TO ARTICLE-BY-ARTICLE DISCUSSION WHICH WENT UNEXPECTEDLY WELL AND RAPIDLY, POSSIBLY BECAUSE NO VOTE WAS TAKEN.

5. US REP (CONGRESSMAN BUCHANAN) REPLIED TO BYELORUSSIAN WHOSE ATTACK HE CITED AS EXAMPLE OF THAT VERY RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE COMITE WAS ATTEMPTING TO ELIMINATE. HE OBSERVED THAT IF THE STATEMENTS HE HAD HEARD REFLECTED REALITY THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR DECLARATION BUT IN REALITY RELIGIOUS BELIEVERS OF VIRTUALLY EVERY FAITH WERE BEING PERSECUTED SOMEWHERE IN WORLD. HE THEN DEFENDED RECORD OF CATHOLIC CHURCH. SEVERAL DELS CONGRATULATED HIM FOR CLEARING ATMOSPHERE AND SAYING THINGS THEY HAD WANTED TO SAY.

6. BAREBONES RES COSPONSORED BY BULGARIA AND GUINEA REMANDING DRAFT DECLARATION TO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WAS SKILLFULLY REWORKED BY BRAZILIAN DEL (COSTA COUTO) TO SALVAGE ALL GAINS MADE ON THIS ITEM DURING THIS SESSION. ACHIEVEMENTS OF THIS RES (L.2030/REV.1) ARE THAT:

A. IT INVITES HRC TO GIVE PRIORITY TO DECLARATION OVER CONVENTION.

B. SOVIET BLOC MEMBER (BULGARIA) COSPONSORED RES INVITING HRC TO ELABORATE DRAFT DECLARATION ON PRIORITY BASIS.

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C. COMITE COMPLETED ARTICLE-BY-ARTICLE REVIEW WITH AMENDMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS PROVIDING SOLID BASIS FOR WORK OF HRC.

D. RES PROVIDES FOR ORDERLY PROGRESSION OF DRAFT DECLARATION THROUGH HRC AND ECOSOC TO NEXT GA, BUT AS PRIORITY MATTER.
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